

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing rod support, the support comprising:
 - a) a restriction member having an opening configured to receive a portion of a fishing rod, wherein ~~the restriction member~~ said opening is configured to substantially limit rotational movement of the fishing rod about a substantially vertical support axis passing through the fishing rod portion; and
 - b) a retaining member operatively coupled to the restriction member, and configured to releasably inhibit vertical movement of the fishing rod portion, wherein said retaining member is movable between:
 - i) a substantially closed position in which said opening is closed, and upward vertical movement of said fishing rod portion along said vertical support axis, and thus, removal of said fishing rod from said fishing rod support, is inhibited; and
 - ii) an open position in which said opening is open, and upward vertical movement of said fishing rod portion is substantially uninhibited, in order to effect removal of said fishing rod from said fishing rod support.
2. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the restriction member comprises at least one substantially vertically aligned fishing rod guide.
3. (Cancelled) ~~The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the restriction member is operatively coupled to the retaining member.~~
4. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining member is substantially tubular.
5. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 4, wherein the restriction member is substantially tubular.

6. (Cancelled) ~~The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the retaining member is movable between:~~

~~_____ a) a substantially closed position in which upward vertical movement of the rod portion is inhibited; and~~

~~_____ b) an open position in which upward vertical movement is substantially uninhibited.~~

7. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a body portion operatively coupled to the restriction member.

8. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a ground engager configured to releasably secure the support to the ground.

9. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 8, wherein the ground engager comprises an auger bit.

10. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support further comprises a mount.

11. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 10, for use with a fishing rod handle holder having a pocket for receiving a fishing rod handle, wherein the pocket is substantially aligned with a pocket axis and wherein the pocket axis forms an angle of deflection to the vertical, wherein the body of the support further comprises a neck portion, and wherein the neck portion forms an angle which is substantially supplementary to the angle of deflection.

12. (Original) The support as claimed in claim 11, wherein the mount is configured to engage the pocket.

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13. (Newly Added) The support as claimed in Claim 1 wherein said retaining member is moved from said closed position to said open position by moving said retaining member vertically upwards along said support axis.

14. (Newly Added) The support as claimed in claim 2, wherein said substantially vertically aligned rod guide is a substantially vertical slot.